

Key Witness In Barka Case Says He Lied

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CPYRGHT

PARIS, Nov. 30—The key witness — and one of the chief defendants—in the Ben Barka case testified today that he had lied throughout the trial in obedience to his superior's orders.

Antoine Lopez, the counter-espionage agent planted in an Air-France job at Orly Airport to watch goings and comings, who allegedly handled the organization of the kidnaping of Moroccan opposition leader Mehdi Ben Barka, testified today that he had exaggerated the role of Moroccans in the affair.

Specifically, he asserted, he had lied when he said that Lt. Col. Ahmed Dlimi, deputy chief of Moroccan secret police, had been at the villa to which Ben Barka was taken after being kidnaped from a Paris street.

Dlimi and Lopez are fellow prisoners in the Sante Prison. Dlimi provided the most recent sensation in this sensation-prone affair by turning up in France just as a verdict was about to be handed down on the defendants and surrendering for trial. He said he wanted to clear his name and that of his country.

Lopez's testimony was given today at a hearing at which he was asking to be released on bail pending resumption of the trial.

He explained his consistent repetition of the charge against Dlimi during the earlier seven-week trial by saying that he acted on instructions from his immediate superior in the French counter-espionage service, Marcel Le Roy, alias Leroy-Finville.

LeRoy-Finville is a defendant, too, but only on the minor charge of having failed to inform the authorities of a crime about which he had knowledge.

If Lopez is believed, his statement today at least partly exonerating the Moroccans would seem to throw the brunt of the responsibility back where the Rabat government has always insisted it belongs — on the French police. He was not alone in